

Engine error turns up the heat on-board baking bus journey

onpage5



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May 25, 2014
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Thousands to use new rail service

BY CARL MUNGAZI
carl.mungazi@lutononsunday.co.uk

MORE than 400,000 passengers are expected to take advantage of increased services on the Thameslink line following a change in the line's operator.

On Friday the Department of Transport announced that First Capital Connect (FCC) had lost the contract for the line, which includes the Luton to London service.

It has been awarded to Govia Transport, which will run the new and expanded network.

Luton Airport said it predicted between 400,000-600,000 existing passengers would use early morning services Luton Airport Parkway station and

London St Pancras. A minimum of two services an hour around the clock will operate between the stations.

FCC, which has run the Thameslink services since 2006, was unsuccessful in its bid for the franchise.

The new Thameslink, Southern and Great Northern (TSGN) franchise will run for seven years from this September. It replaces the existing Thameslink and Great Northern franchise, and the South Central franchise, which includes Southern and Gatwick Express services, previously run by FCC.

Govia already runs Southern Railways, London Midland and South Eastern train services, and previously ran

Thameslink between March 1997 and March 2006.

The news was welcomed by Glyn Jones, the managing director of Luton Airport.

The number of passengers using the line is expected to grow in line with the expansion of the airport.

Mr Jones said: "Coming just a couple of weeks after the airport received the green light from the Government to invest in Luton's future, it's important that an improved rail service between now and 2021 keeps pace with the demands of a developing airport and its passengers."

"Under the Department for Transport's new approach to involve stakeholders like the airport in how rail franchises

can be better managed and improved, we look forward to working with Govia to improve the speed and frequency of trains serving the airport and to deliver long term creative solutions to some of the legacy issues that have impacted the overall experience of travelling to and from Luton by train."

FCC's managing director David Statham said the firm was 'disappointed' with not securing the contract but would work with Govia to 'secure the smooth transition of operations'.

He added: "I want to thank our employees for their hard work and continued efforts to deliver the best possible service for our passengers."

Animal ban for boy who attacked dog and cat

A TEENAGER has been banned from keeping all animals for life after chilling videos of him kicking a cat and brutally beating a dog were found on his phone.

The 16-year-old from Luton, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was also sentenced to an 18-month Youth Rehabilitation Order at Luton Magistrates' Court on Tuesday including a supervision order and a three-month curfew from 7pm to 7am. He had previously pleaded guilty to offences under the Animal Welfare Act.

The disturbing footage was found by police investigating another matter, and

To watch footage of the horrific attack:
Go our website, luton-dunstable.co.uk

passed on to the RSPCA. The first part of the footage is believed to have been filmed in September last year and shows the juvenile callously pinning Staffordshire bull terrier Tyler down in a chair then repeatedly punching her in the face and chest with brutal force.

He can then be seen yanking her down and holding her by the neck so he can kick and kneel her several times. There is also footage, believed to have been filmed in

April last year, showing the teen forcefully kicking a cat in the face in an unidentified street in Luton.

RSPCA inspector Stephanie Law said: "Both of these attacks were utterly abhorrent. I have seen a lot of horrible things in my job, but I felt physically ill watching this footage, it was so distressing."

A vet said Tyler and the cat, which has not been traced, would have suffered stress, bruising, soft tissue trauma. Tyler has made a good recovery.

■ Sadly this wasn't the only case of animal cruelty this week. See page 7.



It's carnival time!

THOUSANDS of revellers are expected to descend upon the town today for the annual carnival.

Proceedings should get underway at midday as the stalls in Wardown Park and the various sound stages situated across the town begin playing music.

There will also be a

selection of local musicians playing on the Ramp stage in St George's Square.

At 1.30pm the parade will start making its way from Wardown Park, with the first group arriving in St George's Square at 2pm.

The groups will then perform on the Ramp stage before leaving at 4.30pm.

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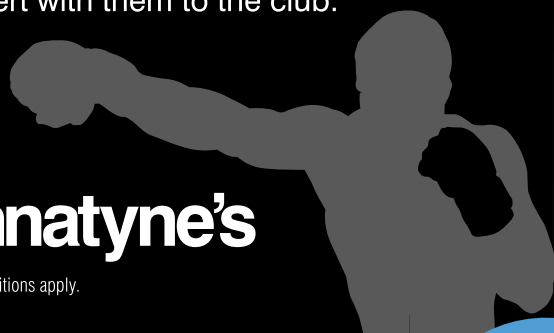
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monday

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- 11.00 – 12.00 Zumba
- 12.15 – 13.00 Body Pump
- 18.00 – 19.00 Body Combat
- 19.00 – 20.00 Legs, Bums & Tums
- 20.00 – 20.45 Zumba

STUDIO 2

- 06.45 – 07.30 Spin
- 11.00 – 12.00 Yoga
- 18.15 – 18.45 Metafit
- 19.00 – 19.45 Spin
- 20.00 – 20.45 Yoga

POOL

- 12.15 – 13.00 Aqua

tuesday

STUDIO 1

- 06.45 – 07.30 Circuits
- 09.45 – 10.30 Insanity
- 10.30 – 11.30 Boxercise
- 12.15 – 13.00 Pilates
- 18.00 – 18.45 Body Pump
- 18.45 – 19.45 Body Attack

STUDIO 2

- 09.45 – 10.45 Body Balance
- 18.00 – 18.45 Yoga
- 19.00 – 19.45 Spin

POOL

- 10.30 – 11.15 Aqua
- 18.00 – 18.45 Boot Camp Aqua

wednesday

STUDIO 1

- 11.00 – 12.00 Kettlecise
- 12.30 – 13.30 Yoga
- 18.00 – 19.00 Body Pump
- 19.15 – 20.15 Zumba Pop

STUDIO 2

- 06.45 – 07.30 Early Bird Spin
- 09.45 – 10.45 Body Sculpt
- 12.00 – 12.30 Metafit
- 18.15 – 18.45 Metafit
- 19.15 – 20.00 Spin

POOL

- 10.30 – 11.15 Aqua Zumba

thursday

STUDIO 1

- 06.45 – 07.30 Boxercise
- 09.45 – 10.45 Body Combat
- 11.00 – 12.00 Legs, Bums & Tums
- 12.00 – 13.00 Aero-Lats
- 18.00 – 19.00 Body Pump
- 19.00 – 20.00 Body Combat

STUDIO 2

- 18.00 – 19.00 Yoga
- 19.00 – 19.30 Metafit
- 19.30 – 20.30 Body Balance

POOL

- 10.00 – 10.45 Aqua
- 18.15 – 19.00 Aqua

friday

STUDIO 1

- 09.45 – 10.30 HIIT Training
- 10.30 – 11.15 Body Pump
- 12.15 – 13.00 Pilates
- 18.00 – 19.00 Boxercise
- 19.00 – 20.00 Body Pump

STUDIO 2

- 06.45 – 07.30 Spin
- 11.15 – 12.15 Bokwa
- 12.30 – 13.00 Metafit
- 18.00 – 19.00 Body Combat
- 19.00 – 20.00 Yoga

POOL

- 11.00 – 11.45 Aqua

saturday

STUDIO 1

- 09.00 – 10.00 Zumba
- 10.00 – 11.00 Body Pump
- 11.15 – 12.15 Body Attack

STUDIO 2

- 09.00 – 09.45 Spin
- 10.15 – 11.00 Legs, Bums & Tums
- 11.00 – 12.00 Yoga

POOL

- 10.00 – 10.45 Aqua

sunday

STUDIO 1

- 09.00 – 10.00 Body Combat
- 10.00 – 11.00 Pilates
- 11.15 – 12.15 Circuits

STUDIO 2

- 10.15 – 11.00 Spin
- 11.15 – 12.15 Yoga

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School set to contest 'critical' Ofsted report

BY CARL MUNGAZI
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AN Islamic faith school which says it has been criticised for not preparing its pupils to 'live in British society' is going to challenge the findings of a draft Ofsted report.

On May 15 parents and staff at Olive Tree Primary School in Bury Park Road, kicked out Ofsted inspectors after nine and 10-year-old pupils were asked questions about homosexuality. The private school has around 65 pupils and does not teach sex education.

Farasat Latif, the chairman of governors, said the four-day inspection which started on May 13 had been cut short after parents complained.

He accused the inspectors and

thereportofbeing 'Islamophobic'.

Ofsted said it had been asked to carry out an 'emergency inspection' by the Department for Education.

Mr Latif said: "We are making a complaint because they asked kids about homosexuality and we are also going to take it to the Luton Safeguarding Board because the kids were interrogated and asked things without their consent or that of their parents. We are challenging the findings of the draft report because they said we are not preparing the children to live in British society."

He added: "They also criticised our library but about 99 per cent of its books are written by non-Muslims and we have books by Anne Frank and Roald Dahl - these are not books that a funda-

mentalist school would stock. This report is not to do with education, it's about an Islamophobic agenda."

Ofsted said it would not comment before publishing its report. In a statement released earlier this week, Sir Michael Wilshaw, the head of Ofsted, said: "Ofsted was asked to carry out an emergency inspection of this particular school by the Department for Education. This school is usually inspected by another organisation."

"Given the specific nature of the concerns in this case - including the publicly expressed views of a member of the school's senior leadership team - I am very satisfied that the conduct of the inspection team was entirely appropriate throughout the visit."

Lemurs opt to share child care responsibilities

THE mothers of six baby ring-tailed lemurs have been spotted taking turns baby-sitting one another's youngsters at Whipsnade Zoo.

Over the past six weeks, half a dozen wide-eyed lemurs have been born on the zoo's Lemur Island, which has become something of a primate crèche.

Ring-tailed babies are usually carried around by their mothers for the first 10 or 11 weeks but lemur mums Daphne, Hannelies, Pien and Naomi have been sharing childcare responsibilities and allowing their babies to be carried on each other's backs.



ARRIVALS: Whipsnade Zoo's island where the lemurs were born has become a 'crèche'

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newsbriefs

TWO ARRESTED AS BROTHEL SHUT

POLICE closed a brothel on Thursday following complaints about noise and anti-social behaviour.

A warrant was carried out at The Palm Beach Club in Adelaide Street, Luton, and two women aged 38 and 48 were arrested on suspicion of managing a brothel.

A number of men at the address were given police advice.

LIGHTNING STRIKES CARE HOME

A LIGHTNING strike on the roof of an elderly people's home in Houghton Regis caused 20 per cent fire damage and 50 per cent smoke damage.

Fire crews were called to Red House Court in Clarks Way at 3.17pm on Thursday. About 20 residents have been evacuated to another home in Markyate, St Albans, while the home is assessed.

NEW PHONE SHOP CREATES JOBS

FIVE jobs have been created in Dunstable with the launch of a new phone shop. Vodafone will open its store in 4 Nicholas Way in the Quadrant Centre on Friday.

EX-SOAP ACTRESS TAKES CLASS

AN actress who has had roles in Casualty and Hollyoaks recently visited the University of Bedfordshire's Luton campus.

Nila Aalia passed on advice to media performance students. During her 25 year career Nila has also worked as a director and acting coach.

CAR CLOCKER IS SENTENCED

A CAR dealer has been sentenced for 16 charges of selling clocked motors.

Mikhail Sturki, 28, of Pauls Road, Luton, was a junior partner at Lama Cars and Modern Cars in Luton run by his brother-in-law. He received a suspended nine month prison sentence and 250 hours of community service after admitting he knew what his relative was up to and going along with it.

The judge took into account that since being caught Sturki had built a reputable car business. His brother-in-law is believed to have left the country.

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Man suffers head injuries after spotting fight in retail park

A MAN was admitted to hospital during the early hours of last Sunday morning with serious head injuries.

It is believed he had stopped in his vehicle having

seen a group of people in the retail car park in Chaul End Lane between midnight and 3am when a fight broke out.

The Luton man is said to be in a serious but stable

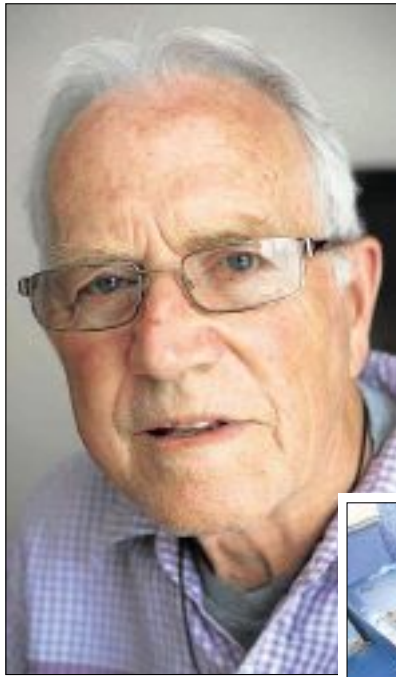
condition and remains in hospital receiving treatment for his injuries.

Detective Sergeant Katherine Rivers said: "Officers have not been able to speak with the man yet

but we believe he may have been assaulted in the Chaul End Lane area of Luton."

Anyone with information should contact DS Rivers at Luton Police Station, in confidence, on 01582 394009.

Exposed engine makes for boiling hot bus ride



MECHANICS: Ian Hamilton had been on his way to Luton for his weekly shop when he noticed the exposed bus engine (right)

BY CARL MUNGAZI
carl.mungazi@lutononsunday.co.uk

A PASSENGER was feeling the heat after spending around 20 miles on a bus sitting near the exposed engine.

Ian Hamilton, 78, described the temperature as 'oppressive' as he travelled into Luton on the number 81 Stagecoach service from Bedford on May 16 with his wife.

Mr Hamilton, who is retired, said he was 'amazed' to see the engine compartment showing underneath one of the seats at the back.

The couple had been travelling from their home in Marston Mortaine to the town for their weekly shop when they were forced to sit near the health and safety hazard.

Towards the end of the journey one of passengers alerted the



bus driver to the exposed mechanics.

Mr Hamilton said there was concern that someone could have been injured.

He said: "The heat that came out of the engine compartment was unbearable and the noise was loud. There were also some fumes."

"There were seats available at the back but the heat was so oppressive that when some people left the bus we went to sit at the front."

"If someone's child had fallen there or if a child had put their hand there, they would have been burnt."

"I was just amazed that it had left the garage like that - some of the fixing bolts were on the seat."

A spokeswoman for Stagecoach said: "The vehicle was incorrectly put into service following work carried out by a third party contractor."

"However, once the driver became aware of the issue, the vehicle was returned to the depot immediately."

"Safety is our absolute priority and we will be reinforcing our procedures on vehicle checks with the contractor and our team."

"We would like to apologise to our customers for any inconvenience caused."

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Pet horse's neglect 'devastates' family

BY CARL MUNGAZI

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THE owner of a horse which died after being severely neglected by its carer has said she is 'devastated'.

Laura Willis, 33, from Kempston, had gone in for brain surgery last winter when she left her bay mare Polly in the care of Houghton Regis woman Rachel Hall, 25.

Last Friday at Milton Keynes Magistrates' Court Hall was banned from keeping horses for life and given an eight week custody order suspended for 12 months, after pleading guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to Polly and a bay gelding called Sam.

RSPCA officers were called to Church Road in Upper

Sundon where the horses were kept. Sam was found dead at the scene and emaciated Polly later died from ill-health.

Ms Willis said Hall had showed her good references when they met, as well as the field she would be keeping the animals in.

The mother-of-three said: "I kept in touch with her whilst I was in hospital and she was saying that everything was okay. The field's owners had been abroad for nine weeks so no-one saw what was happening."

"I first knew of Polly's death when I saw the story online. It has been hard because of what I have been through and it's harder now that I have lost her for good."

"I had Polly for about two years and I got her to build up my confidence in horses again."

"She was such a well-behaved mare and my children even rode her. She wouldn't have hurt anybody."

She added: "It's been absolutely devastating. Me and my kids are really upset and it goes to prove that you have to be careful about who you trust. I am just pleased that she has been given a life ban."

Hall was also given a 12-month supervision order, 80 hours unpaid work and made to pay £2,000 in costs plus a £80 victim surcharge.

RSPCA chief inspector Rob Hartley said he had been 'absolutely appalled' by the level of neglect.

BBC antiques show Flog It to hold valuation day

POPULAR BBC show Flog It is heading to Bedfordshire.

People are invited to bring up to three antiques or collectables to a valuation day being held at West Park House

and Gardens in Silsoe on Thursday, June 26 between 10am and 4.30pm.

Experts from the antiques series will be on hand to place a value on the pieces free of charge.

Items selected for inclusion in the series, presented by Paul Martin, will then be sent to Tring Market Auctions in Tring, Hertfordshire, to go under the hammer on

Friday, July 25. All those who attend the event at West Park will have their items valued; regardless of whether they are selected for inclusion in the auction.

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Town second for house evictions

BY CARL MUNGAZI

carl.mungazi@lutononsunday.co.uk

RESIDENTS in the town are the second most likely to lose their homes in the East of England, new research has shown.

Figures released by the housing charity Shelter revealed that Peterborough, followed closely by Luton, had people more likely to receive a repossession notice, with one in every 60 homes at risk in both towns.

The research is based on

Ministry of Justice data from the last financial year which shows how many homeowners and private or social renters have received a possession notice for their home.

Luton council said many residents in the town were 'struggling' in the current economic climate.

A spokesman said rent arrears among the authority's own tenants had increased by almost £60,000 since last year's Welfare Reforms were introduced.

Shelter predicted that many

struggling families 'could soon hit danger levels'.

The charity's chief executive, Campbell Robb, said: "These staggering figures show just how many families in the East of England go through the trauma of learning that their home is at risk, every single week.

"People are hearing that the economy is recovering, but we're seeing the reality that many families across the country are still battling to keep their heads above water and keep their homes.



CAMPAIGN BACKING:
Student Opeyimi Akindele

Student volunteers in memory of dad

AN international student who lost his father to cancer has joined a council campaign to raise awareness about the disease.

Opeyimi Akindele, 27, who is at the University of Bedfordshire on a Commonwealth Scholarship, said he wanted to 'give back to society'.

He will be working with the council's Cancer Awareness Team which was set up a year ago. They attend community events and give advice on how to spot early signs of cancer and get screened.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Luton, Dunstable and Stevenage areas and Tom is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success.

'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to

show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Tom a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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It's third time lucky for bride and groom

BY CARL MUNGAZI

carl.mungazi@lutononsunday.co.uk

ONE lucky couple are set to wake up today as Mr and Mrs having finally tied the knot after having to cancel their two previous weddings.

IT analyst Vicki Hill and her partner Mark Smith won Stockwood Discovery Centre's Win A Wedding competition last year and celebrated their big day yesterday.

The couple started planning their first wedding in 2011 while they were living in Chelmsford.

However an illness in the family meant they had to cancel the booking and eventually move to Luton to be closer to Vicki's relatives.

They then tried again to organise their wedding in 2012 but another family issue meant their plans were shelved.

But having won the competition last year, Vicki said she was now looking forward to their big day.

She said: "I thought I was going to be really anxious and stressed but now I am looking forward to it."



WEDDING BELLS: Vicki Hill and Mark Smith had lost two sets of deposits after being forced to cancel their previous two weddings

"I think if we had not won the competition, we probably would not have got married because the financial burden of getting married is a lot these days."

"Winning gave us the push we needed."

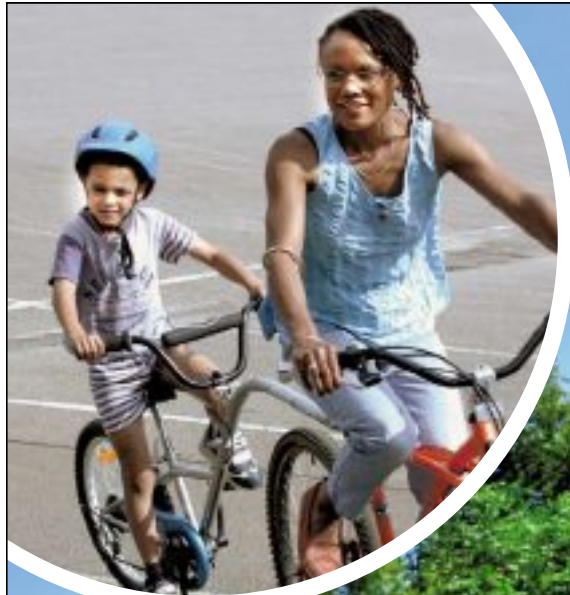
For the competition, couples in the town were invited to submit entries stating why they wanted to win.

The winners got a prize fund worth more than £3,000,

which included a ceremony and reception venue, a car for the day, photo booth, photography, cake and flowers.

In her winning entry, Vicki explained how her previous weddings had been cancelled before adding that it was her mother's 'dream' to see her walking down the aisle.

She finished off: "It would make me so happy to have my family and close friends witness the best day of my life."





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your letters

Being green is just common sense

SIR - In my letter of May 4 I set out various official scientific research findings about the dangers of air pollution to local people.

NHS analysts found that 6.43 of every 100 deaths in Luton are due to air pollution, one of the highest rates in the UK.

If the airport expanded to 18 million passengers, 7 million extra vehicles would gridlock local roads.

Invisible exhaust particles enter lungs and affect organs throughout our bodies.

Luton's poor health statistics for breathing problems, cancer, heart attacks, strokes and diabetes would get much worse.

Airports produce unhealthy, polluted environments.

These concerns are supported by a petition to government signed by eight Luton GP surgeries.

Ways we can all act to reduce this health threat include: to use trains more, drive and fly



What do YOU think?

Email editor@
lsnmedia.
co.uk

less, holiday in unpolluted parts of Britain, which helps our economy, walk and cycle away from main roads, visit our parks and beautiful countryside nearby whenever we can, buy local food from farmers' markets, and enjoy growing our own fruit and veg, which also cuts HGV journeys.

Most readers will support these common sense ideas.

Incidentally, I would urge them to ignore Ron Turvey's ill-informed ramble last week.

It is good to see solar panels becoming common on Luton's

roofs, and it saves us money.

People disillusioned with the main political parties still support environment charities, which know renewable energy is vital to cut fossil fuel use, reducing ill-health, pollution and climate damage such as floods in the UK.

David Oakley-Hill
Friends of the Earth

■ Steve Lowe discusses the positives of Luton, including its airport, in his column on pg14.

Thanks for your support

SIR - We would like to offer our sincere thanks to everyone in Luton who helped make Marie Curie Cancer Care's Great Daffodil Appeal such a big success this March.

From our brilliant volunteer donation collectors, local Lions groups and fund-raising groups who tirelessly encouraged people to donate and wear a daffodil pin, to everyone who gave what they could to support people with a terminal illness - We want to say a big, heartfelt thank you. Mall and Town Centre collections on Friday, March 7 and Saturday, March 8 raised a total of £1,340.58.

The funds raised during the Great Daffodil Appeal make it possible for Marie Curie nurses to provide more free hands-on care to people with terminal illnesses in their own homes in Bedfordshire as well as vital emotional support for their families. Again, we want to say a huge thank you to you all.

Christine Brown and Lucy Watson
Community Fundraisers
Marie Curie Cancer Care

Perception's back on agenda

SIR - It was encouraging to learn that PCC Martins is at last beginning to catch up with the plot - or at least part of it.

In his column in last week's *LoS* he tells us of his latest discovery: that, in addition

to crime itself, a key issue that needs tackling is people's perception of it. Because, apparently, the situation is nowhere near as dire as we think it is.

A few years back I attended the inaugural meeting of SoLUTiONs - Luton's Community Safety Partnership.

An outstanding issue highlighted among the various working groups in attendance was this very thing - people's exaggerated perception of crime. So it was agreed back then that correcting this misconception must become a priority.

Did it? Has it? If so was it successful and do we feel safer now? Presumably not, because PCC Martins has just discovered it. Again.

Ron Turvey
Luton

Let's put it to a vote

SIR - We live in a society where people are too scared to have an opinion. They won't even vote in general elections.

If your vote is not approved by others, you could be ridiculed, slagged off. Even branded a racist. It's your vote. No one else's. Use it as you think fit. But don't dare to step out of the circle. Because of EU laws and rulings I don't feel free. I feel suppressed.

John Tucker
Luton

■ Go to our website today for the East's EU election results; luton-dunstable.co.uk



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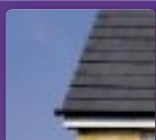
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steve lowe

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After some trying times, Luton is on the up and up

IT'S an old newspaper adage that only bad news is good news. Planes crashing is news, planes landing safely isn't. That is not always the case and over the past few weeks Luton has seen a refreshing number of good news stories about itself.

It has its share, some would say more of its share, of murders, shootings, stabbings and general crime. It has political bickering, not least because it is an oasis of red in a sea of East Anglian blue. But recently the town, and Lutonians, have reason to feel a lot more chipper. Luton Town has won promotion to the Football League, after years of trying.

As any fan will tell you, its exit from the league had little or nothing to do with football. It was treated a bit shabbily by the Football League and Football Association, being docked points when the blame lay with the directors, not the club, players, or its loyal fans. Still Luton is back and well done to you.

It has also been announced that Vauxhall vans are coming back big time. The new Vivaro will be produced in Luton and if successful, which looks highly likely, could lead to a lot more skilled jobs in the town. And, after years of uncertainty, the expansion of Luton Airport is going to happen.

There are some in Hertfordshire who are obviously not happy. As a former Luton councillor once told me: 'Everyone wants a bus service but no-one wants a bus stop outside their house.' It is true of airports. More and more of us are flying more and more often, so airport expansion is inevitable.

And planes are getting quieter and quieter, so the intrusion for those in the flight path is not as noisy as it once was.

I accept there is some intrusion but there will be thousands of new jobs, some of which will be in Hertfordshire, so we should all welcome the expansion. It also helps cement easyJet's loyal-

ty to Luton, which itself is very important. So, all in all, some very good news for Luton. Let's spend the summer celebrating - but not too raucously.

As you read this you might be diverted by the European Union election results. Then again you might not. In case you are I feel, probably like you, of sending a message of a pox on all the main parties, although I did vote.

Unlike many I feel an even bigger pox on Ukip. Farage keeps stating that it is not a racist party. Maybe but it does have a lot of racists in it, as well as homophobes, sexists and some who make MPs seem almost normal.

And, the prime motivation for the EU was always peace and security, which to me looks more important than ever.

There is nothing Russia would like more than to see us leave the EU. That's good enough to make me want to stay in it.

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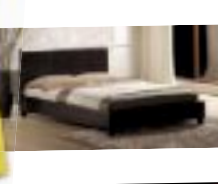
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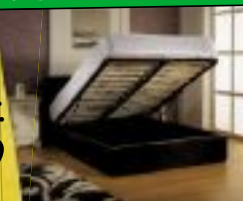
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SUPPORT: Lloyds Bank is backing the Alzheimer's Society

Charity walkers not fazed by heavy rain

BANKING staff braved thunder and rain this week to complete a charity walk from Dunstable to Luton.

The workers, from all the Lloyds Banks in the towns, walked from branch to branch on Thursday within 40 minutes in aid of the Alzheimer's Society.

Two staff members from each site walked to the next, where another two took over. The event ended at Lloyds' George Street branch.

Consultant's stay comes under fire

BY CARL MUNGAZI

carl.mungazi@lutononsunday.co.uk

THE length of time the council has employed an engineering consultant has come under criticism.

Philip Cunningham is a project manager for the £89 million busway scheme and is also involved in other projects at the town hall.

He is not directly employed by the authority but is a director of The Cunningham Consultancy Ltd, which the council has paid £987,633

since 2005 for its work. Luton council said the firm had won two tenders in 2005 and 2008/9 and that it had contributed to the 'upskilling' of 10 members of staff. However, the length of Mr Cunningham's stay has come under fire.

One council worker, who did not wish to be named, told *Luton on Sunday*: "When other people are being made redundant, it's a real kick in the teeth."

Councillor David Franks, leader of the Liberal

Democrats, said consultants brought advantages 'from time to time', but added they should have a time limit of three months.

The council said it had reduced its overall consultancy spend by £6 million since 2005/6, and that 85 per cent of The Cunningham Consultancy's fees had come from government grants.

Luton on Sunday made efforts to contact The Cunningham Consultancy Ltd but our messages were not returned.

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100 years on we

BY KATHRYN CAIN

editor@lsnmedia.co.uk

LEST we forget. That's what we say each year on November 11, promising that the stories of those who gave their lives will never be lost with each passing year.

And 100 years after the Great War began that promise is as good now as it has ever been.

There are plenty of books, films and television programmes which document Britain at war. But what of Bedfordshire during wartime?

We begin our journey at the Bedfordshire and Luton Archive where our county archivists are busy cataloguing every snippet of information into two blogs on Bedfordshire during the First World War, which will be updated every day from the day the conflict began, August 4.

When war broke out in 1914, the concept of our own fathers, brothers and sons going to fight was an unfamiliar one.

Martin Deacon, team leader at the archive, said: "There was nobody alive who had lived through a war at home, where Britain



could be invaded. It directly touched people because it was not a far away war in a country we'd never heard about."

For the first time war was on our doorstep, and for the people of Bedfordshire, that meant soldiers coming from all over Britain to train in our midst before being sent to the front.

Men from all over were billeted to Bedford, many to the Goldington Road schools, and it was not uncommon to see 1,000 men marching from train stations to where they would be trained.

Perhaps the biggest cul-

ture shock at the time was the arrival of the men of the 51st Highland Division who marched into Bedford, which was their wartime base, with their kilts and broad Scottish accents.

As the fighting went on, local contributions to the war effort also increased with ammunition factories in Luton and Amptill producing things like ball bearings for guns, steel helmets and even some types of uniform.

In total it is thought around 2,000 men from Bedfordshire died in the Great War, although the amount of casualties from

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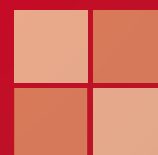
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THE GREAT WAR:
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Regiment and (left)
Martin Deacon from
the Bedfordshire
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while the 4th was set up as a training unit and later sent out to fight as part of the 63rd Royal Naval Division.

By the end of the war only the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 1st/5th, had not been disbanded. Along with those already mentioned, the 6th, 7th and 8th battalions also saw active service but in fact there were 14 other battalions that never went to the front, acting as garrison troops in India, working at docks and guarding parts of UK.

Martin added: "The battalions themselves had mixed experiences. On the first day of the Battle of the Somme, there were 60,000 casualties in one day. There had never been as many in one day before nor has there been since. The 8th Battalion was badly hit. They were asked to do the impossible too often. It was a total disaster for the British Army, but not so for the 7th Bedfords as they achieved all their objectives that day.

"They lost 100 men but that number was far less than most battalions suffered on that day."

the Bedfordshire Regiment is around 8,000 as many of the men came from Hertfordshire, London and other parts of the UK. The first to be killed in action was Private Edwin James Bywaters of the 1st

Battalion the Bedfordshire Regiment who fell on August 23, 1914. His body was never found.

The 1st and 2nd battalions were made up of regular soldiers who were in the army before war broke out,

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Reward offered for stolen work

BY CARL MUNGAZI
carl.mungazi@lutononsunday.co.uk

THE founder of a jazz record company is offering a reward after thieves stolen thousands of pounds worth of equipment which held photos of his late wife.

Paul Jolly, 66, from 33 Records, said he was stumping up £500 for any information that would help him reclaim what was on the computers, which also included important work.

The burglary happened on May 12 while a workshop was being held in the record company's base at the Hat Factory. Three Apple iMacs were taken along with other equipment.

Mr Jolly said some of the computers also contained images which were going to be used for a project being run by the Luton Community Arts organisation.

He said: "The most important things on the computers was our current work. There was also back-up material and things like financial records."

"It had some photos of my late wife and I kept them



BIG LOSS: Paul Jolly said the work would take 'months' to replace

there because I thought they would be safe in an office.

"It's the last thing that you think would be stolen."

"We would like to offer a reward to get it back."

"It's not really the computers that matter but the work that will take months to replace."

The record company has a large catalogue of about 300 albums and mainly produces material for jazz artists in the

UK, US and Europe. Mr Jolly added: "It's a big loss to us because we're smaller than other record companies so when you have a loss like this, it will threaten the business."

"You're doing creative work for artists that can have a knock-on effect."

A spokeswoman for Bedfordshire Police said that they had launched an investigation into the incident and were still making enquiries.

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I'm super excited about meeting you all at The Mall, Luton, on Sunday, June 1 for Pamper Day – come down and meet me!
I'll be here with my Bella Sorella team and our latest summer lines for you to browse through and purchase, as well as giving you all a style masterclass on the day!

To kickstart your new season wardrobe, here are some of my top picks that have just landed at The Mall from your favourite fashion retailers.
One of my favourite trends this year are pastel colours, a favourite for Spring that returns every year. Whether it's pink, mint or dusky blue, there are so many wearable colours that will simply complement everyone.

To brighten up last year's summer wardrobe, it's all about the accessories! From that must have statement necklace to a bright clutch bag; changing your accessories really can change your whole look (and cost less!).

Another favourite of mine this year is print, including florals. Those floaty printed dresses and trousers really give a gorgeous vintage look that I just love.

Don't forget to stock up on your must-have pieces too to finish off any look!

I hope to meet you all next Sunday for Pamper Day.

You can also pre-register at www.themall.co.uk to get your hands on a fabulous free goodie bag too!
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Lydia x

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Ex-TOWIE star Lydia Bright guest edits this page

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THREE men dressed in black and armed with a shotgun attempted to rob a betting shop.

The trio demanded money from staff before leaving empty handed. It happened on Saturday,

May 17 at around 9.45pm at Ladbroke's in Birdsfoot Lane, Luton. The victims managed to escape to a secure room before the would-be robbers left the scene.

Detective Constable Matt Shepherd said: "Luckily no

one was hurt during this incident. We believe the shopping parade was busy and a number of people were close by at the time of the offence." Anyone with information should call 01582 394448 or Bedfordshire Police on 101.

Mother is told human remains are her son's

BY CARL MUNGAZI

carl.mungazi@lutononsunday.co.uk

PRELIMINARY findings have revealed human remains belong to the missing son of a Luton mother.

Council worker Margaret Allpress's son Matthew disappeared in November while on a solo trek through the centre of the Annapurna region of Nepal.

Mrs Allpress and Matthew's father Mark arrived in the area on May 14 where they also confirmed clothing and personal items found with the remains belonged to their son.

Following tests by doctors, a statement on the Find Matt Facebook page said dental and medical records had

confirmed the remains were almost certainly Matthew's.

It said: "An autopsy was performed over the past few days on the skeletal remains recovered last week.

"The autopsy was performed by doctors from the Teaching Hospital in Kathmandu under request from the Pokhara Police.

"Margaret, Matthew's mum, attended the hospital on Thursday to view the remains and to meet with the examining doctors who had carried out the autopsy.

"The doctors advised that their preliminary findings were that the remains were of Matthew Allpress based on the dental and medical records provided by the family."



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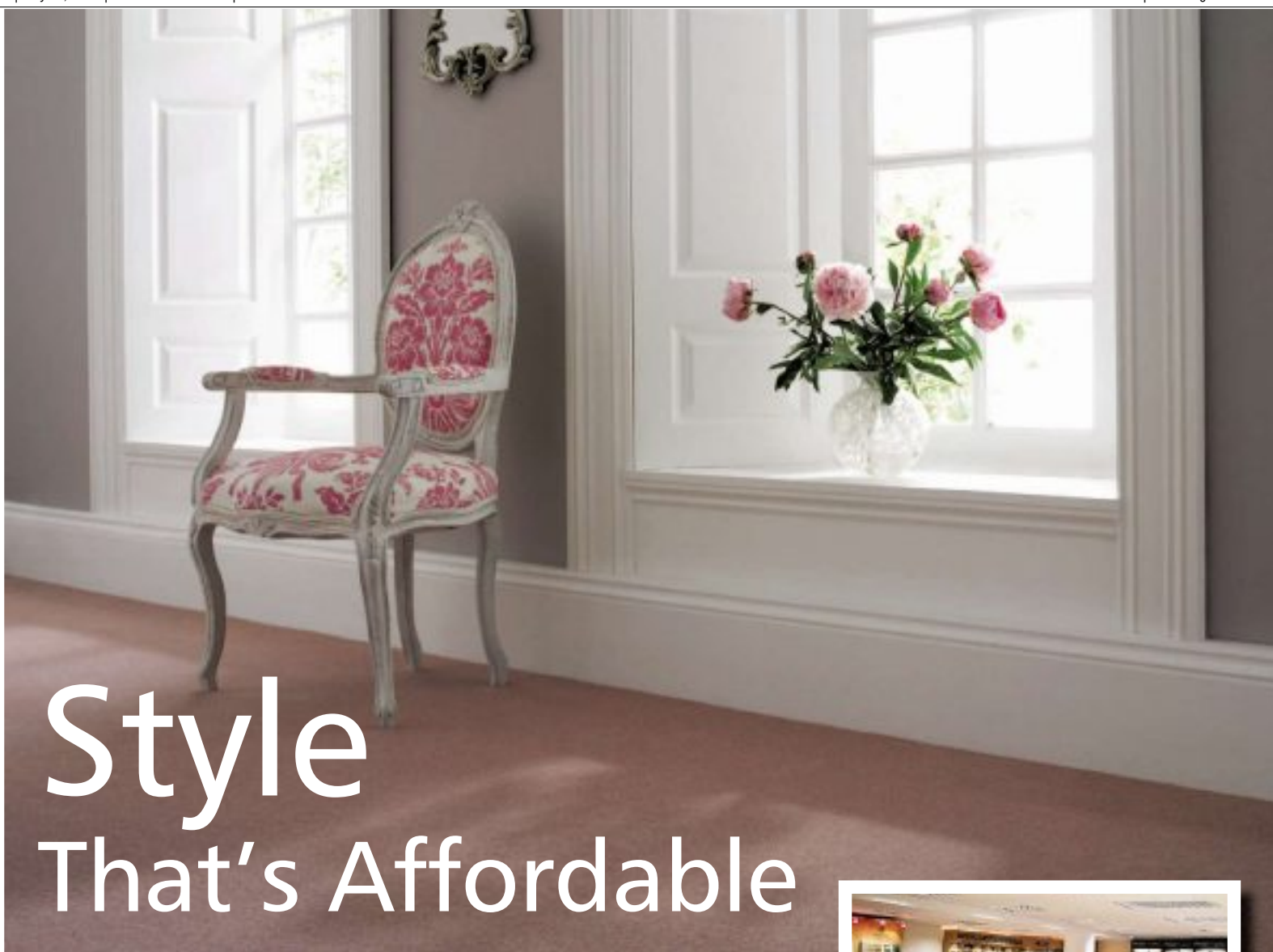
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WATER: Police at the scene after Steven's body was found

Lake death due to heart disease

A CORONER has been told that a man who was discovered in Willen Lake in Milton Keynes did not die from drowning.

Steven Rosario, 55, of Poplar Avenue, Luton, was found on January 21. He had left a note at a nearby Premier Inn where he was staying saying 'must test life jacket'.

In a hearing on Tuesday, coroner Tom Osborne heard how the cold water only triggered his death, as he had suffered from heart disease.

County gets its first ever 'hate strategy'

BY JULIA SUTTON

editor@lutononsunday.co.uk

THE county's first ever hate crime strategy started this week.

Bedfordshire Police, victim support groups, councils, and other organisations came together for the launch at an event in Kempston on Wednesday.

It is hoped the scheme will encourage more victims and witnesses to 'shout out' against hate crime.

There will also be Bedfordshire Hate Crime Awareness Week from June 9 which will include training in schools and for support services.

Awareness sessions for groups that support vulnerable people such as those with disabilities or domestic abuse victims will also be held.

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Taf Sharif said: "Hate crime should not be tolerated in any shape or form."

"We as communities must stand up against hatred and shout out against hate crime and work together to raise awareness and get victims to come forward."

"The launch of the strategy is just one proactive step taken by partners, more will take place over the coming months including training police officers as well as community organisations in hate crime, developing hate crime champions, educating young people and much more."

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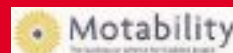
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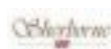
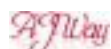
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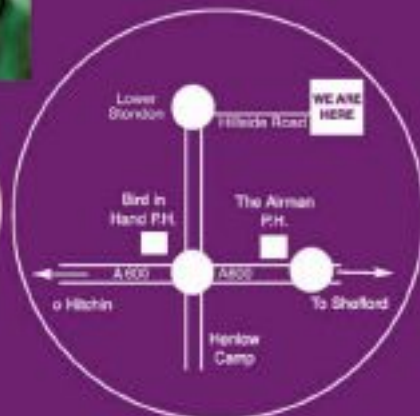


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PROCESSED BY PEOPLE

'Wicked' Katherine's house put up for sale

BY CARL MUNGAZI
carl.mungazi@lutononsunday.co.uk

AN 11-BEDROOM grade II listed house once owned by an infamous highwaywoman has been put up for sale.

Cell Park, which is off the A5, close to Slip End, has been put on the market by Savills Estate Agents for £4.25 million.

The Elizabethan-style brick mansion was famously the home of the 'Wicked' Lady Katherine Ferrers, whose ghost has been seen in the area - according to local paranormal groups.

Lady Ferrers was said to be a highwaywoman who robbed passengers on Watling Street (now the A5).

She died in 1660 outside the house after being shot during one of her robberies.



According to the Luton Paranormal Society, the ghost of Lady Ferrers was responsible for a fire which destroyed part of the house in 1840.

Guests and previous residents of the property are also said to have encountered the ghost or seen strange things

happening. The mansion is believed to have been first set up as a monastery before being converted in 1539 by Humphrey Bourchier.

In 1547 Edward VI granted the estate and its various out buildings to George Ferrers, who was the then Lord of the Manor of Flamstead.

Traveller site protest group launch petition

CAMPAIGNERS against a proposed gypsy and traveller site in Barton-le-Clay have started a national petition to stop councils developing on greenbelt land.

The Barton Residents Action Group (BRAG) is calling on

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles, and Parliamentary Under Secretary, Brandon Lewis, to put a stop to local authorities creating or allowing gypsy and traveller sites

on land protected from developments. Every time the petition is signed Mr Pickles, Mr Lewis and Mid-Bedfordshire MP Nadine Dorries, are informed.

To sign the petition, visit <http://handsoffgreenbelt.co.uk>

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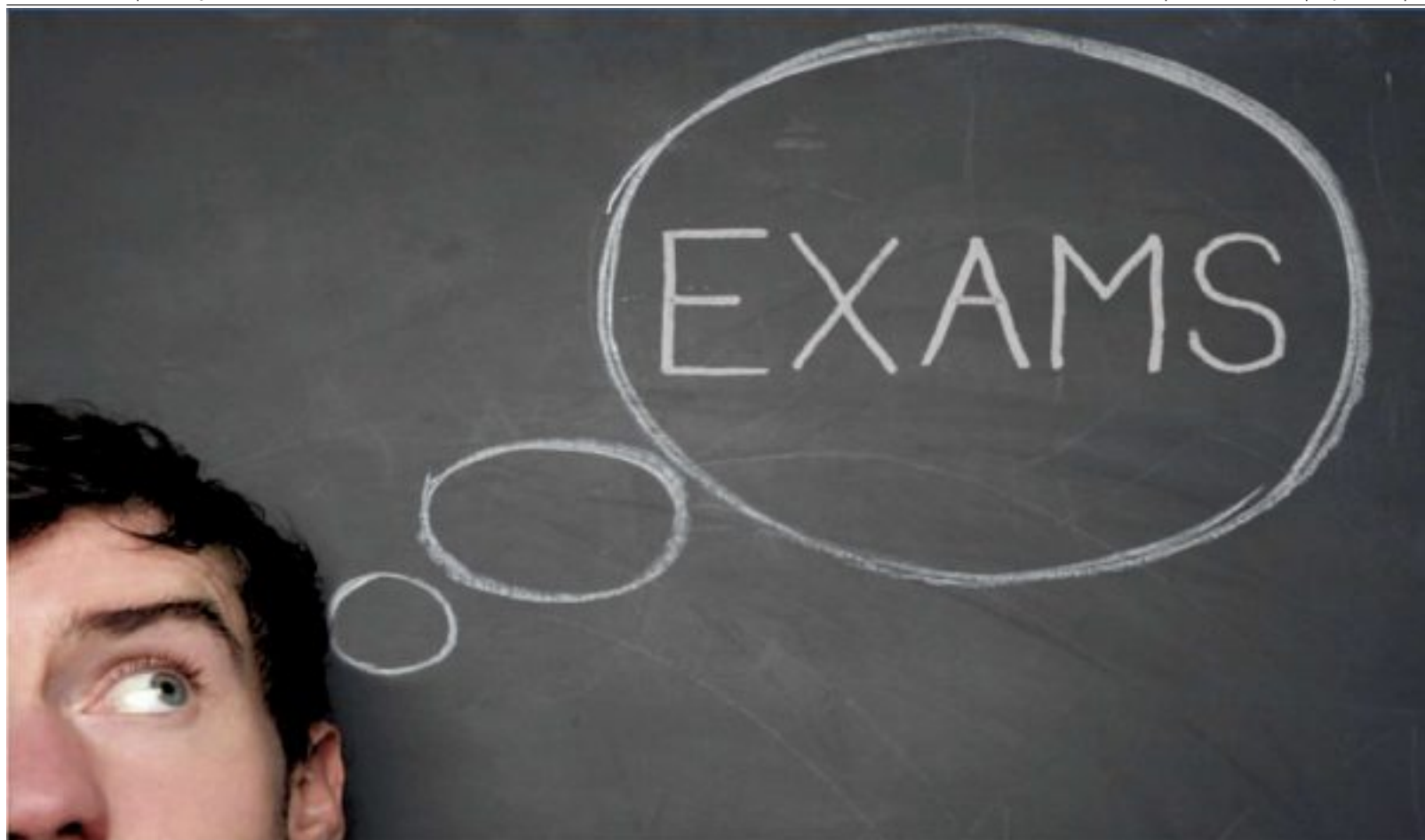
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We must find the key to tackling housing policy

AS this newspaper revealed last week, around 4,600 working households in Luton are in receipt of housing benefit.

That's working people. In work. In employment. In jobs.

They're earning so little that they need government assistance in order to keep a roof over their respective heads.

Amazingly, that figure stood at just 2,600 when this supposedly 'tough on welfare' Tory/Lib Dem government came to power.

The net result of their policies is to push working people into poverty, making them more, not less, reliant on the state. Something is very badly wrong.

Truth be told, housing policy has never recovered from the home ownership 'revolution' of the 1980s.

Forced to sell council houses off on the cheap, local authorities found themselves unable to build their way out of a chronic lack of accommodation.

People criticise the last government for not taking the issue seriously enough.

I think there's some truth to that, during the early years. But just before the financial



Luton South MP Gavin Shuker discusses the rise in working households relying on housing benefit and the bid to tackle it

crash, we were building around 180,000 additional homes a year.

Across the East of England, we built the equivalent of a whole additional county worth of dwellings over the 13 years of the Labour government. Even that wasn't enough.

Here in Luton, the cost of successive failures is felt in high rents, poor housing conditions, and young families unable to afford to live.

All this at a time where mortgage costs are relatively low. So, what needs to be done?

In the short term, we need to fix a broken deal for Britain's generation rent.

That's why the next Labour government will cap rent rises, give the right to a fixed tenancy, and ban extortionate estate agent fees.

And as for owning, and building? Put simply, we need to build more houses.

That's why we've committed that by the end of the next parliament we'll be building more than 200,000 new homes a year.

Soundings tough on welfare is easy. Being tough on it requires being tough on the cause of it.

It calls on us to put poverty pay in the crosshairs; building our way out of the hole we find ourselves in.

In the 1970s, 95 per cent of Britain's housing budget was spent on building homes. Today 95 per cent of Britain's housing budget is spent on housing benefit.

Something's broken, and the lesson of the past four years is that it will fall on the next Labour government to fix it.

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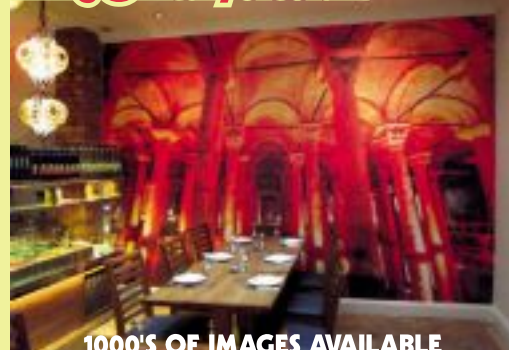
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This informal, fun open day is aiming to raise funds for Active Luton's **Access2Sport** programme which supports children with disabilities and enables them to participate in sport.

Everyone is welcome!

For more information call 07976 745980

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Godzilla re-telling
is a monster-mash

on page 44

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Alistair McGowan is making a big impression as Higgins

THEATRE

PYGMALION

Milton Keynes Theatre
Tuesday-Saturday

WHEN it comes to performing, there aren't many things that Alistair McGowan hasn't done. He's a stand-up comic, writer, director, Sport Relief Bake-Off champion and the man of a thousand voices.

He's also a very successful West End actor. This week, at MK Theatre, McGowan is heading up the cast as Professor Henry Higgins in George Bernard Shaw's classic comedy, *Pygmalion*. Judy Riley talked to him (and a whole host of characters that dropped in on the conversation) about the show.

It's 100 years since *Pygmalion* first premiered in London, what's the appeal of the play in 2014?

McGowan laughs: "Well, it's popular, there are good lines in it, lovely characters and it has political issues that are still very topical. It deals with the whole issue of social mobility and has its echoes in TV shows like *Faking It* and the *X Factor*. What raising people's expectations does to them."

Does the kind of bullying and chauvinism that Higgins displays still exist? Maybe in the shape of the Jeremy Clarkson of this world?

He sniffs. McGowan has made it very clear in the past what he thinks of the *Top Gear* presenter (not a lot). "Huh. I never saw any connections with Clarkson. Actually, Higgins reminds me most of my dad, who passed away a few years ago. He



came to this country from India from an Anglo-Indian culture. He was very interested in the way people spoke. He made sure I changed the way I spoke; made sure I got rid of a thick Worcestershire accent."

Lots of actors say that they build a character from the shoes up. How do you approach a part?

"Shoes? No, not at all. Very predictably, I suppose, I start with finding the voice. It's the way I've always worked. Whenever I find the voice it affects everything."

And your favourite impression?

"It's invariably the newest one. At the moment it's Nigel Slater (and

suddenly Nigel has taken over the conversation) but I never get fed up. You have to choose who to do. You have to want to find something interesting about the person. That's why I don't do many politicians. I find Ed Miliband really hard. (He immediately does a fine impersonation) Do I really want to sit and watch them to be able to impersonate them? It's much more fun to do celebrities, soap characters, sportsmen and football pundits. I like to fast forward through televised matches and listen to the pundits."

You have done so many things. What do you put on your passport?

"I don't know what's on it. Entertainer I suppose. It confuses people. I do live work and they say 'I didn't know you did stand-up or acting or whatever'."

Have you been to Milton Keynes before?

"Well, yes. But the last time was in the early nineties. I did a stand-up set for Chris Moyles who was running a comedy night on a Sunday in a sports venue? Or something like that..."

How times change.

For tickets, or more information, go to www.atgtickets.com/milton-keynes

Band brings the glory days back in reunion show

MUSIC

THE LUTON BAND

St Mary's Church
Saturday, 7pm

FOR one night only, former members of one of the town's most famous musical groups will be holding a concert.

The Luton Band will be pulling out all the stops to bring their name back into the public eye in recognition of an event that occurred more than 90 years ago.

In September 1923, The Luton Band achieved a brass band double - winning the National Finals Contest and also the 1000 Guinea Trophy - a feat unmatched by another before or since.

The band was formed in 1883 and through the two World Wars kept the morale up in the town.

It held a place in the top rank of brass banding until the late 1990s, featuring on both television and radio broadcasts as well as in many worldwide competitions.

However, in the late 1990s a falling number of members caused the band to withdraw from competing and although the band has not formally disbanded, there has not been any rehearsals for around the last 10 years.

In mid-2013, several former members, led by Euphonium player Colin Reeves, felt it was time to resurrect the group name with a reunion concert and Saturday's event was born.

The night will be hosted by two former musical directors of the band, Terry Brotherhood and Phillip Littlemore, and will be a showcase of some of the music that the group was most well known for, as well as bringing together some of the most famous names from its 50 year history.

Entry to the event is free but a retiring collection will be held in aid of St Mary's Church Fund during the show.

You can find out more information by visiting www.thelutonband.co.uk, and searching for 'Luton Band 2014' on Facebook.

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Godzilla's a blockbuster with brains

FILM REVIEW

GODZILLA
Out now

BREAKOUT indie director Gareth Edwards deserves immense credit for doing something different with Godzilla lore – even if the finale undoes some of his good work.

He brings the experience of low-budget 2010 movie *Monsters* – which famously (in film circles at least) barely featured any actual 'monsters' – by trying to build likeable human characters among a menacing backdrop.

And that menace isn't necessarily the title character itself – it just seems that way from clever marketing misdirection – as two MUTOs (Massive Unidentified Terrestrial Organism) are unleashed after feeding on nuclear power, leading to Godzilla being the anti-hero with the ability to restore balance against these forces of nature.

The human characters come in the form of husband and wife team of Ford and Elle who are dealing with catastrophes in Tokyo and San Francisco respectively.

Ford has gone to see his nutty Dad, Joe, who is still trying to prove that the destruction of the nuclear power station under his control 15 years earlier – which caused the death of his wife – wasn't caused by an earthquake, but actually something else and he's soon proved right.

As the military and other experts combine forces to combat this new



alien menace, another giant monster, who has been sleeping quietly for more than half a century awakens due to all this nuclear activity – and it might just be humanity's only hope.

Director Edwards stays loyal to the original film's Japanese roots and nuclear-orientated storyline with an truly intriguing first hour – with a noteworthy (if slightly over-acted) performance from Cranston being the meat in the sandwich – building up into what could have been one of the most surprising blockbusters in

quite some time. But sadly the main leads – despite being part of some impressive action set-pieces – don't quite hit the spot, with Ford being a little too dull as a leading man, and Elle being a woefully underused stereotype.

The last hour then turns into a monster-mash as the ingenuity unravels with an ending that is as bloated as chunky Godzilla's over-sized belly and the movie just kind of fizzles out as we get to the pay-off. But this effort ultimately does more rights than

wrongs as Edwards comes close to turning what could have been predictable big-budget summer fare into a high-concept blockbuster with brains – more akin to the likes of Spielberg.

For that he deserves a lot of plaudits and it's well worth a watch for being a little different.

Compared to the last 1998 Godzilla effort he makes this look like an Oscar-winner.

Gavin Miller
Rating: 3/5

Travel in style with a pair of classy tickets

FANCY winning a first class day out by train for two in the South East of England?

Luton on Sunday has teamed up with National Rail to offer five lucky winners first class return train travel for two people anytime this summer (valid for six months).

Among the places you can travel to is London, which has enjoyed some jubilant times recently; playing host to Olympians from around the world, the Royal Wedding, and most recently welcoming Prince George into the world.

As a result, the capital is buzzing and has never looked or felt better.

Travelling by train is one of the best ways to visit London's top attractions this summer and you can do so in first class style by being a competition winner.

To be in with a chance, send an email to carl.mungazi@lutononsunday.co.uk with your contact details. Winners will be chosen at random.

The deadline is June 1. Normal T&Cs apply. The editor's decision is final.

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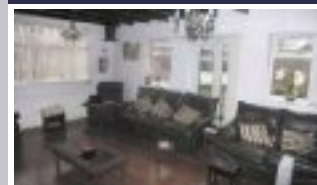


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- Garden

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- Garden
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- 2
- 2
- Garden
- 1 off road

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- 1
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- 1
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September 2014

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- rise to the challenge of a changing educational environment

If the answer is yes to the above our children, staff and governors would love to hear from you!

We would welcome and encourage all interested applicants to visit the school. To arrange a visit please contact Clare Mitchell on 01234 711323. For an application pack please visit our school website.

Closing date for applications Friday 13th June 2014 12.00 noon

Interview dates Thursday 26th and Friday 27th June 2014

Olney Middle School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. This post is subject to enhanced DBS checks

Olney Middle School, Yardley Road, Olney, Bucks, MK46 5DZ | www.olneymiddle.milton-keynes.sch.uk

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PUTTERIDGE HIGH SCHOOL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Putteridge Road, Luton LU2 8HT

Headteacher: Helen Beauchamp

First Choice for a Successful Future

Teacher of Boys' PE with Humanities

History or Geography specialist preferred (hours negotiable)
MPS/UPS

Vacancy ID: 101367

To start September 2014

'Putteridge High School is a good school', Ofsted Feb 2013

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, creative and dedicated Key Stage 3 & 4 teacher of Boys PE with the ability to teach KS3 Humanities. You will be joining an effective, supportive, committed team where you will be able to make a difference to the life chances of our young people.

If you want to be part of the outstanding future of Putteridge High School; if you think you can help transform the opportunities for the community we serve then we would like to hear from you.

Putteridge High School is situated in a quiet area on the outskirts of Luton, adjacent to the Bedfordshire/Hertfordshire border.

For further details and an application form, please contact Angie Pitchford at the school address, tel: 01582 415791 or email: apitchford@putteridge.org

Closing date: Friday 6 June 2014.

CV's will not be accepted. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and a Criminal Record Check.



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General Vacancies



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PE AND SPORT PROJECT MANAGER

£32072 - £34894 (or 11 months Sept - July pro rata)

Full time - 37 Hours per week • Local Government Pension Scheme

Active Education is looking to recruit a highly motivated and enthusiastic qualified teacher as a PE and Sport project manager to expand its workforce.

This is an exciting opportunity for an outstanding practitioner to support schools in developing and implementing high quality Physical Education and School Sport and using this as a tool to bring about whole school improvement. The successful candidate must ideally have experience of working within all phases of education but particularly at primary age. You will have experience of leading on projects, writing development plans and delivering training to and/or mentoring other adults. You will be organised, professional, flexible, approachable and able to work independently using your own initiative.

You will join a small friendly, supportive team and play a key role in our expansion.

The appointment is subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS disclosure.

Closing date: Sunday 15th June. Interview date: Thursday 3rd July.

If you would like any additional information regarding this post then please contact Karen Abell or Leanne Chapman, PE and Sport Development Managers on 01582 400272. To apply for this role, please visit www.luton.gov.uk/jobs

SPORTS COACH (MULTI SKILLS)

L4 - £18,453 - £20,198 • 37 Hours per week

Full time (Part time may be considered. Some evenings and weekends session)

Due to growth in the work of the Active Education PE and Sport team, there is an opportunity for motivated, reliable and flexible individuals with appropriate qualifications, skills and experience to assist in the development and delivery of activity sessions within schools and in community settings.

We are seeking to appoint two UKCC Level 2 qualified (or equivalent) coaches. Ideally you will also have a range of additional qualifications and/or experience in other sports. We are looking for experience and ability to deliver a wide range of sports activities as we offer a variety of specific and multi skills sessions. However if you have experience in delivering gymnastics/trampolining, dance or sessions for early years children that would be an advantage.

The successful candidate will contribute to Active Luton's Delivery Plan and be able to plan, record and report on the activities undertaken.

You will join a small friendly, supportive team and play a key role in our expansion.

The appointment is subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS disclosure.

Closing date: Thursday 12th June.

Interview date: Friday 27th June.

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If you would like any additional information regarding this post then please contact Karen Abell or Leanne Chapman, PE and Sport Development Managers on 01582 400272. To apply for this role, please visit www.luton.gov.uk/jobs

Central Bedfordshire Council

YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE

PERSONAL ADVISOR - SEN

£25,212 - £27,564 per annum (quote ref: 4675)

Full-time, 37 hours per week

This is your chance to help us make sure young people aged 13 to 25 with Special Educational Needs (SEN) get the support they need.

You will work across our special schools, colleges and mainstream schools providing Information, Advice and Guidance and transition support to these young people. It means building positive working relationships with them and their families to create action plans that will enable them to participate, achieve and thrive. You will work closely with school staff and other professionals and complete learning difficulty assessments to ensure young people's support needs are met in further education settings.

This rewarding and challenging role calls for a qualification in Careers Guidance (Level 4) and previous experience of working with young people with SEN.

For an informal discussion please contact Angela Perry on 0300 300 4484 or email angela.perry@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

To apply, please visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/jobs

Closing date: 8th June 2014

Interview date: 19th June 2014

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Posts working with either children and/or vulnerable adults will be subject to the disclosure of criminal records.

Central Bedfordshire

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General Vacancies



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Transport Assistant

£15,000 - £16,000 per annum - Permanent,

Full-time, 37.5 hours per week

Based at RSPB UK Headquarters, Sandy

We are seeking a personable and enthusiastic Transport Assistant to join the Transport and Security team based at our headquarters in Sandy.

You will help the team deliver a wide range of support services at the facility including: driving duties in the local area and occasionally nationally when transporting materials for public events, care of fleet vehicles, site portage/general manual handling and some computer/data entry tasks.

You will need to be tactful with a positive, flexible approach to the varied requirements of the job and be able to work alone or as part of a small team. The diverse nature of the role means some overtime, including occasional weekend working and overnight stays may be necessary.

Closing date: 8 June 2014. Interview date: 16 June 2014.

For further information and to download an application pack please visit our website.

www.rspb.org.uk/vacancies



The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity. England and Wales no. 207076. Scotland no. SC037654.

Clerk to the Corporation

Salary: £40,000 (£24,000 pro rata)

Hours: 3 days per week, 52 weeks per year



The College is seeking an experienced professional to act as Clerk to the Corporation.

This is a senior position in the College. The Clerk is responsible for ensuring compliance with the legal and governance framework which surrounds Further Education Colleges.

The postholder will support the work of the Corporation and its Committees, working closely with the Senior Management Team, servicing meetings, preparing information and offering advice and guidance.

The successful applicant could have a background in law, business or accountancy, or as a senior manager in education.

For further information on how to apply, please download the application pack at <http://www.centralbeds.ac.uk/work-for-us.html>

Please note, CVs will not be accepted, and applications from agencies will not be considered.

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday 4th June, 4:00pm

INTERVIEW DATE: 18th/19th June

All roles are subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) disclosure.



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Bedford Borough Council takes great care to recruit the very best people so that the services we provide to our community are first class. We believe that the best work gets done in an environment that's enjoyable and which values, supports and encourages the development of its employees. In return we expect our employees to work hard and be committed to help us achieve our vision and share our values.

Environment & Sustainable Communities

Transport Operations Development Officer

£31,160 - £33,998 per annum • Quote ref: P000923

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Closing date: 9 June 2014

Posts working with children and/or vulnerable adults will be subject to the disclosure of criminal records.

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General Vacancies



Harlington Upper School
Harlington, Beds



Harlington is a highly successful, Upper School and Academy. We have around 1400 students and consistently achieve outstanding exam results.

Teaching Roles (all roles full or part-time):

- **Teacher of Business Studies** (TLR available)
- **Teacher of Sociology** - 1 year fixed-term
- **Teacher of Textiles** - Maternity cover
- **Teacher of Geography** - Maternity cover
- **Teacher / Acting Head of Art** - Maternity cover

Support Roles (permanent):

For all of these support roles term time only including 5 training days.

• Admin Assistant

Salary NJC Level 2B (£14,440 - £15,882 pro rata)
Up to 37 hours per week. 8am start required.

• Learning Supervisor

Salary NJC Level 3D (£17,333 - £19,317 pro rata)
The postholder will supervise lessons for teachers in their absence. Up to 30 hours per week.

• Student Support Assistant

Salary NJC Level 3D (£17,333 - £19,317 pro rata)
Up to 37 hours per week.

Details of these posts and online application forms are available at www.harlington.org

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff to share this commitment. A DBS disclosure is required for these posts.

ITS DIGITAL

I.T. Field Engineers

We are a Hertford based I.T. support company looking to employ for recent growth into the Bedfordshire area.

Both senior and junior positions will be available based on previous experience and skills, with a number of 6 month contracts available for those looking for temporary work.

The roles will include solving various workstation and printer issues within Windows 7/XP environments, Office suite configuration and applications associated with NHS/public sector organisations. The senior positions will expand on this, covering basic server troubleshooting, networking diagnosis and more. On-site training and support is provided to all engineers.

Experience in similar role would be preferred.

For more information and to apply for a position, please go to www.itsdigital.co.uk/jobs

Kempston Limited have the following vacancies:-

Buyer/ Store person

Duties include purchasing all materials and equipment, goods in material control. Applicant must be organised and computer literate. Forklift licence an advantage. Previous experience in a similar role required.

Fine Limit Sheet metal Welder

Must be able to MIG and TIG weld, Mild Steel, Stainless Steel, aluminium and Zintec.

Skilled CNC Brake-press Operator (Night shift)

Must be full conversant with all aspects of folding fine limit sheet metal and the setting of folding machines.

Please e-mail colinr@kempston.co.uk with current CV.

General Vacancies



CAN is an established and thriving agency, providing a range of drug, alcohol and homelessness services throughout Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire

We have the following job opportunity working within our Substance Misuse CAN Partnership service Bedfordshire

- **Community Recovery Practitioner - Bedford**
- **Recovery Practitioner - Dunstable**
- **Administrator/Receptionist - Dunstable (maternity cover)**

For full details visit our website www.can.org.uk

CAN offers competitive salaries, 24 days annual leave plus statutory days, pension scheme and development opportunities.

Closing date for returned applications is 5pm, Monday 9th June 2014

Alternatively e mail recruitment@can.org.uk, fax 01604 635679, write to HR, 8 Billing Road, Northampton, NN1 5AW to request an application pack.

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Customer Service Advisor

Bedfordshire on Sunday

Do you have sound organisational and administrative skills?

We are seeking a full-time Customer Service Advisor, working on our busy reception area as the face of Bedfordshire on Sunday.

The position would suit a motivated and

pro-active individual with sound organisational and administrative skills. Experience in a similar role is essential.

The successful applicant must be able to demonstrate excellent written and oral communication skills, have competent IT skills with knowledge of Microsoft Office packages.

For this busy role you will need to enjoy meeting with the public and hold excellent customer care skills and be able to work on your own initiative. You must be personable, professional, calm under pressure, and be able to deal with queries in a diplomatic and sensitive way.

Business Developers

Luton on Sunday, Bedfordshire on Sunday, MK News & Northampton Herald & Post

Do you thrive on being where the action is?

Are you looking for a career with a dynamic growing organization?

If the answer is yes... Then the Advertising Sales Team would like you to work with them on four of the best read newspapers in the county and our associated websites.

Our Business Developers are full multi-media professionals offering clients a complete

marketing strategy comprising print and digital display, SEO, social media and web-builds.

Are you outgoing and talkative? A good telephone manner would be a necessity, but we need individuals who work quickly with others, like involvement, have good persuasive skills and heaps of enthusiasm.

We Offer:

- Up to £22,000 per year basic
- A generous bonus structure

- Great potential for career development
- 25 days holiday per year
- Regular training
- Strong support from your team and your manager
- Contributory pension and healthcare after a qualifying period
- Company Car

Telesales Executives

Luton on Sunday, Bedfordshire on Sunday, MK News & Northampton Herald & Post

Are you bubbly and enthusiastic, along with being hard working and have the drive to succeed?

We are looking for highly motivated individuals to gain new business by setting effective and exciting campaigns.

The Advertising Sales Teams would like you to work with them on some of the best read newspapers and associated websites covering

Bedford, Luton, Milton Keynes and Northampton. You would join our friendly sales departments as a Telesales Executive.

The role involves a high level of cold calling to local businesses who will benefit from advertising in our newspapers and on our websites.

Being outgoing and talkative, with a good telephone manner would be a necessity, but we will give you all the help and training you need.

We Offer:

- Up to £15,000 per year basic
- A generous bonus structure
- Great potential for career development
- 25 days holiday per year
- Regular training
- Strong support from your team and your manager
- Contributory pension and healthcare after a qualifying period.

If you feel you are suited to any of these positions and are interested in applying, then please request an application form by emailing louisa.kugeniek@localworld.co.uk The closing date for this position is 26th May 2014.

We encourage applications from all walks of life and all applications will be considered on merit. It is the company's policy to employ the best qualified personnel and provide opportunity for the advancement of employees including promotion and training and not discriminate against any person because of sex, race, pregnancy, disability, marital or family status, ages, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or trade union membership.



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THE LICENSING ACT 2003 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR LICENCE

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Are applying for the Variation of a Premises Licence.

If granted, the licence will enable the following to take place: sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises Monday to Sunday 10:00 - 24:00 and provision of late night refreshment Monday to Sunday 23:30 - 24:00.

Persons wishing to make representations in respect of this application may do so by writing to Licensing Department, Luton Borough Council, Town Hall, Luton, Beds, LU1 2BQ, within 28 days from the date of this notice. A copy of the Application is also kept at the above address and may be viewed during normal office hours.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application, the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is a level 5 fine on standard scale.

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Luton Borough Council

THE BOROUGH OF LUTON (VARIOUS ROADS)

(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES) (NO.13) ORDER 2014

NOTICE is hereby given that Luton Borough Council, the Highway Authority for the said Borough, intends to make the above Order under the relevant provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).

The Order will come into operation on 16th June 2014 for a period of 18 months. Specific times and dates will be signed locally. The Order will therefore be in operation when signs are displayed.

The effect of the Order will allow the Council to close to traffic the roads and lengths of roads in the Schedule below. The Order is intended to create a window for the works to be done and it is anticipated that the works will be completed over a period within the dates described as above.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the replacement programme of the water mains.

Access will be maintained as best as possible to properties where this may be done safely whilst such works are being carried out and diversions for traffic will be marked by signs.

SCHEDULE

ROAD	LENGTH OF ROAD
Latimer Road.	The southbound carriageway from its junction with Park Viaduct to its junction with Union Street.
Union Street.	The eastbound carriageway from its junction with Castle Street to its junction with Latimer Road.
Princess Street.	From its junction with Adelaide Street to its junction with Dumfries Street.
Stuart Street.	The eastbound carriageway from its junction with King Street to its junction with Chapel Street.
Chapel Street.	The northbound carriageway from its junction with Stuart Street to its junction with George Street.
Wellington Street.	From its junction with Stuart Street to its junction with George Street.
Wellington Street.	From its junction with Dumfries Street to its junction with Windsor Street.

Graham Turner, Highway Services Manager
Town Hall, Luton LU1 2BQ

THE BOROUGH OF LUTON (ARCHWAY ROAD)

(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) (NO.2) ORDER 2014

NOTICE is hereby given that Luton Borough Council, the Highway Authority for the said Borough, intends to make the above Order under the relevant provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).

The Order will come into operation on 23rd August 2014 and cease operation after 24th August 2014 or when the proposed works have been completed. Specific times and dates will be signed locally. The Order will therefore be in operation when signs are displayed.

The effect of the Order will allow the Council to close to traffic the road and length of road in the schedule below. The Order is intended to create a window for the works to be done and it is anticipated that the works will be completed over a period within the date described above.

The purpose of the Order is to enable structural inspection of the railway bridge and associated vegetation clearance.

Access will be maintained as best as possible to properties where this may be done safely whilst such works are being carried out and diversions for traffic will be marked by signs.

SCHEDULE

ROAD	LENGTH OF ROAD
Archway Road.	From its junction with Filmer Road to its junction with Sarum Road.

Graham Turner, Highway Services Manager
Town Hall Luton LU1 2BQ

THE BOROUGH OF LUTON (ASHBURNHAM ROAD)

(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2014

NOTICE is hereby given that Luton Borough Council, the Highway Authority for the said Borough, intends to make the above Order under the relevant provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).

The Order will come into operation 6th August 2014 and cease operation after 7th August 2014 or when the proposed works have been completed. Specific times and dates will be signed locally. The Order will therefore be in operation when signs are displayed.

The effect of the Order will allow the Council to close to traffic the road and length of road in the schedule below. The Order is intended to create a window for the works to be done and it is anticipated that the works will be completed over a period within the dates described above.

The purpose of the Order is to enable works to be carried out to rectify a leaking water mains.

Access will be maintained as best as possible to properties where this may be done safely whilst such works are being carried out and diversions for traffic will be marked by signs.

SCHEDULE

ROAD	LENGTH OF ROAD
Ashburnham Road.	From its junction with Belmont Road to its junction with Dale Road.

Graham Turner, Highway Services Manager
Town Hall Luton LU1 2BQ

DATED: 25th May 2014

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SOUTH KOREA GETS SERIOUS

With smart looks, a practical interior, great build quality and solid engineering, Kia's third generation Carens is a much improved 7-seat compact MPV. Though well appointed, it offers strong value and efficient running costs. In other words, you get pretty much everything families are looking for in this segment. With this car, the modern era rejuvenation of Kia's model range is complete.

Kia reckons that this is the most stylish car in its sector, a bold claim in a segment boasting some distinctive looking rivals. Carens buyers only get one body size: unlike Ford, Citroen and Renault, Kia doesn't see the need to offer separate five and seven-seat bodyshapes in this segment. It never did previously either, but older Carens models offered the choice of either five

or seven seats. Here, you've a seven-seat-only design.

Seating at the very back is fine for kids and at least now easier to access thanks to a more effective middle row tilting and sliding mechanism. As for the middle row, well it now has three separate chairs that recline and slide. Luggage space is restricted to just 103-litres with all seats in place, but rises to 492-litres with the third row flattened and 1,560-litres with the second row flat too.

Under the bonnet, buyers get to choose between a 133bhp 1.6-litre GDi petrol unit or a 1.7-litre CRDi turbodiesel, offered in 114 or 134bhp states of tune, the latter available with the option of a 6-speed auto gearbox. Most will be choosing between the GDi petrol unit or the lower-powered diesel, both capable of around 112mph flat out.

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- 03 Ford KA 1.3 Style History Low Tax Group £1,250
- 51 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Comfort Hatchback £1,150
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- 52 Ford Escort 55, Diesel, light van..... £995
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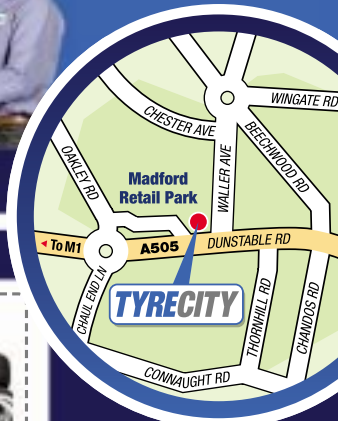
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TOYOTA STARLET GLS 1.3ltr, 1998, Silver, 3 Door Hatchback, 54k, F/S/H, 9mths MOT and Tax, Good condition. £850 ono 01234 403245	FORD GALAXY LX TDI diesel, 2001, TAX Sept 14, MOT April 2015, 107,780 miles, full service history £1,800 ono 01234 822408	PEUGEOT 307 SW SE HDI 2ltr, 2004, Blue, Estate, mot and tax til July 14, alloys, A/C, multi-cd changer, full panoramic sunroof. £2,000 ono 07523 879158	VAUXHALL VECTRA CDTDI 1.9ltr, 2007, Silver, 5 door hatch diesel, low mls, VGC, 12 mths mot, 6 mths tax, FSH, A/C, alloys, CD £2,300 ono 01604 459765 or 07796 082340
VOLVO XC70 1998.160K mls. 9 months MOT, 2 months tax. Good runner but need TLC. £550 ono 07913 844163	FORD KA COLLECTION 1.3ltr, 2005, Silver, 3 Door Hatchback, 41k, Ford FSH, mot Dec, tax Sep, 1 owner from new, £1,200 ono 07759 036195	PEUGEOT 5008 1.6 60 plate, diesel, E/W, C/L, cruise control, alloy wheels, 7 seats, A/C, 150K miles. £5,800 ono 07889 429300	FORD KA DESIGN 2006 Reg, 1300cc, C/locking, PAS, E/W, Met Blue, MoT/Tax, vgc £995 ono (T) 01582 733759

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Citroen	Mercedes Benz	Vauxhall	Volkswagen
CITROEN XSARA PICASSO SX 2L diesel, silver, 2 owners, service history, A/C, C/L, CD, MOT and TAX, 71,000 miles, VGC for year £1295 (T) 07818086620 or 07928804238	MERCEDES BENZ 1.8 C CLASS petrol, 2003, 2 door Coupe, metallic blue, panoramic sunroof, alloy wheels, automatic, 2 new tyres, TAX end Sept 2014, recent service, MOT until Feb 2015, 53,000 miles, VGC, leather interior £3,250 ono 01234 378928	VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE TWINPORT  1.6ltr, 2005, Blue, 5 Door Hatchback, tax 03/15, MOT 09/14, 70k miles, vgc, E/W, E/M, A/C, CD, C/L, 4 new bridgestone tyres, vg S/H. £2,195 07580 088458 or 01234 218040	1999 POLO AUTOMATIC 1.4 55,000 miles, 2 owners, history, new tyres, CD, years mot, TAX available at cost £725 (T) 01234 358145 or 07860 388898

Ford	MG	onSunday	Volkswagen
FORD FIESTA 1.6 GHIA 5 door, 1 owner, 84,000 miles, FSH, new cambelt, MOT and TAX, silver, C/L, A/C, alloys, CD, lovely condition for year £2,495 (T) 07818 086620 or 07928 804238	MG ZS 120 2003, mileage under 14k miles, tax until August, MOT February, garaged, one careful owner, ABS, A/C, alloys, etc, immaculate blue £1,300 ono 01908 665239	onSunday Sell your car fast... 01582 700800	VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT HIGHLINE TDI 2ltr, 2008, Metallic Black, Estate. 140bhp. 1 owner from new. Full VW service history. 46K mls. 12 months MOT. Excellent condition. £7,750 ono 01234 330608 or 07879 402782



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HATTERS

LUTON Town boss John Still has been awarded the Skrill Premier manager of the month award for April/May while on loan Hatter Cameron McGeehan has scooped the players' prize.

Still guided Town to six wins out of seven in April as Luton wrapped up the title and promotion back to the Football League after five years.

Norwich loanee McGeehan, pictured, bagged a late winner in the 1-0 victory over Aldershot and backed that up with further strikes in the wins over Tamworth and Forest Green Rovers.

The 19-year-old midfielder is a player Still would like to be at Kenilworth Road in some capacity next season.

Still told the club's website: "April was a fantastic month for us, not only because we clinched the championship, but also because the way in which we ground out victories.

"There were crucial wins against Dartford and Aldershot plus the magnificent performance and result against Forest Green in our final home match.

"Cameron was a key part of those performances, scoring the winner in that victory over Aldershot.

"His contributions – together with the rest of the team – were first class and it is a testament to his character that he performed and applied himself in such a man-

Oztumer is close to signing on at Town

HATTERS

BY JASON MOORE
sport@lsnmedia.co.uk

LUTON Town are closing in on the signing of Dulwich Hamlet midfielder Erhun Oztumer.

The 22-year-old had confirmed on his Twitter page that he was waiting for the two clubs to complete the deal, with Hatters boss John Still also acknowledging his interest.

"We contacted Dulwich to get permission to speak to Erhun," Still said when speaking to the Non League Paper.

"He's made it clear he only wants to come to Kenilworth Road and now we're in talks with the club over a fee.

"He's a very talented player who wants to be part of the club."

Oztumer was named Supporters' Player and Players' Player of the Year at Dulwich, who play in the Ryman Premier Division.

For his part the player has also hinted about his imminent signing, speaking to fans about the probable departure on Twitter.

He wrote: "Not yet, just waiting for clubs to finalise deal," when asked about the ongoing rumours and speculation.

If Oztumer does join he would become the second new signing since the club's return to the Football League, and the second to be plucked from the non-league pyramid, following the capture of Lowestoft Town defender Curtley Williams, who has penned a two year contract which will begin on July 1.

"We've watched Curtley exten-



TARGETS:
John Still

sively this season and we've all been very impressed," said Still.

Williams, who is leaving his job in a gym in Stowmarket to sign on with the Hatters on a full-time deal, added: "I came with my Mum

and my girlfriend and met with John and Terry [Harris] and they showed us around the stadium.

"Let's face it, Luton's not a League Two club, it's a massive club, it's absolutely huge, the history and

everything.

"Before I came I knew I wanted to sign anyway and then I spoke to John and Terry and there was no doubt, I'm over the moon right now."

County hope to finish with a victory after high scoring exit

CRICKET

WITH their hopes of qualifying for the quarter finals of the Unicorns Trophy ended by defeat to Hertfordshire last week, Bedfordshire include three debutants in their side for the final group match against Cambridgeshire at March today.

Ben Welsh, who has played for the development side, Eversholt and Ickwell, and Shabbz Hussain, a prolific scorer in local cricket, come in for James Kettleborough and Rob Keogh, who have Northamptonshire commitments, while Jon Carpenter replaces Tom Brett.

Carpenter, who plays for the same club as skipper Andy Reynoldson, is an all-rounder who bowls off-spin. While Bedfordshire cannot qualify, they can still have a say who does. If they beat Cambridgeshire today, the winners of the match between Hertfordshire and Norfolk will go through.

Last Sunday's match was an absolute cracker and Bedfordshire must have been gutted to lose. They hammered 325-5 from their 50 overs, but Hertfordshire sneaked home in the last over with their last pair at the wicket.

It is doubtful whether there is a better wick-

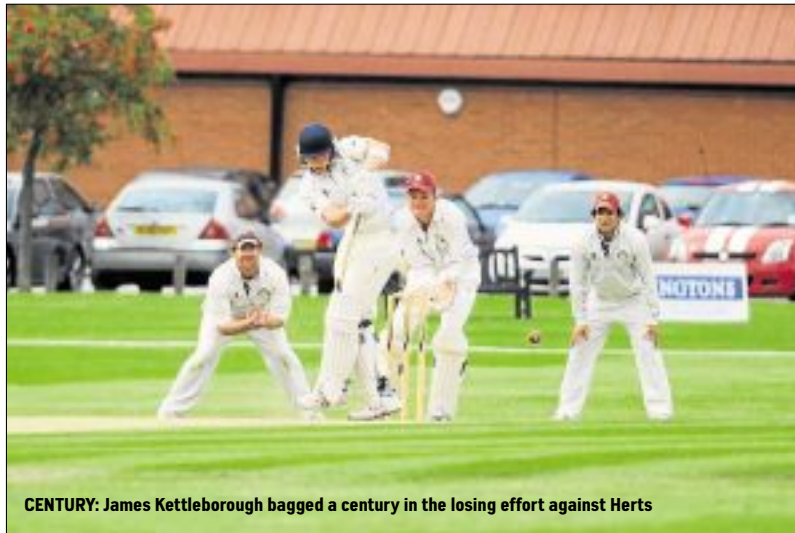
et in the county than Cople and Kettleborough and Keogh, released by Northants, took full advantage with a second wicket partnership of 130. Keogh fell for 64 off 62 balls, but Kettleborough went on to score 114.

Reynoldson was even more aggressive, cracking 81 from 53 balls, and with Martin Weightman weighing in with 22 from 14, the Bedfordshire score looked formidable.

Hertfordshire, though, knew that the wicket was still perfect and the openers put on 112 without taking any risks. Bedfordshire hit back due to some good bowling by George Bacon, Alex King and Reynoldson and were clear favourites when Herts slipped to 210-6 with mainstay Nesan Jeyaratnam out for 91.

But the Hertfordshire match winner proved to be Jamie Southgate who stood firm to make 51. Hertfordshire needed three to win at the start of the final over, but last man Simon Greenall managed to get the ball between the fielders to snatch victory.

Today's Bedfordshire team to face Cambridgeshire in the Unicorns Trophy is: Andy Reynoldson, Luke Thomas, Martin Weightman, George Thurstance, Ben Welsh, Shabbz Hussain, Jon Carpenter, Alex Martin, George Bacon, Alex King, Luke Evans.



CENTURY: James Kettleborough bagged a century in the losing effort against Herts

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Money would place huge bet on Luton

HATTERS

BY JASON MOORE
sport@lsmmedia.co.uk

FORMER Luton Town boss Richard Money says he would place 'a big bet' on the Hatters following up the Conference title with promotion from League Two next season.

Money ensured that his current club Cambridge United will join Town back in the Football League by beating Gateshead 2-1 in the Conference play-off final last week, and then talked up the Hatters' hopes for 2014/15.

The 58-year-old was in charge at Kenilworth Road between 2009 and 2011 and has tipped Luton to claim a top three spot in League Two, enough for automatic promotion.

"When I took the Luton job I always felt that if you can get them up, you could go through the leagues very quickly and I think they will," Money told media.

"But getting over the first hurdle is incredibly difficult.

"I think we need to consolidate. It means a lot that we are a Football League club.

"Let's try and hang on to Luton's coat tails as well as we have this year. I'm not a big betting man but



EX-BOSS:
Cambridge's
Richard
Money

I'd have a big bet on Luton finishing in the top three next season.

"For us, it's about making sure we

comfortably remain a Football League club and let's see what happens after that."

• Stay tuned to www.luton-dunstable.co.uk/sport for more Hatters news throughout the week.

Premier League ace thankful for start given to him by Hatters boss

HATTERS

BY TOM SHARP
sport@lsmmedia.co.uk

LUTON TOWN boss John Still has been praised by Crystal Palace striker Dwight Gayle.

Still signed the then 21-year-old for Dagenham and Redbridge from non-league outfit Stansted in the summer of 2011.

Despite only netting seven times in 18 appearances for the East London side, Gayle's goal tally of 29 in 42 games during a season-long loan at Conference North side Bishop's Cleeve prompted Peterborough United to buy the prolific forward.

Now making a name for himself with Palace in the Premier League, including two late goals in the Eagles' derailment of Liverpool's title challenge last month, Gayle has thanked his former mentor for handing him a stepping-stone to the top.

"It's very surreal to increase up the leagues," said Gayle, speaking to the Croydon Advertiser.

"It's just fantastic. John Still took a chance on me at Dagenham & Redbridge and I am just happy with that.

"He helped to improve my game and luckily I can thank him and prove myself in the Premier League.

"I still look out for Dagenham's results and I talk to all the boys there.

"I really want them to do well, they've had a good season and next season they can push on and get into the play-offs and get promoted."

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